

Tuesday, 28 October, 1947

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INTERNATIONAL MILITARY TRIBUNAL  
FOR THE FAR EAST  
Chambers of the Tribunal  
War Ministry Building  
Tokyo, Japan

PROCEEDINGS IN CHAMBERS

On an oral application on behalf of  
the Accused UMEZU for permission to interrogate  
TAKEBE, Rokuzo.

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Before:

HON. SIR WILLIAM WEBB,  
President of the Tribunal and  
Member from the Commonwealth of  
Australia.

Reported by:

Robert B. Morse  
Official Court Reporter  
IMTFE

Appearances:

For the Prosecution Section:

GENERAL A. N. VASILIEV, Associate  
Counsel, acting on behalf  
of the U.S.S.R.

MR. FRANK S. TAVENNER.

For the Defense Section:

MR. BEN BRUCE BLAKENEY, Counsel for  
the Accused UMEZU, Yoshijiro.

For the Secretariat:

Mr. Paul Lynch, Deputy Clerk of the Court.

Judge Edward H. Dell, Legal Adviser.

The proceeding was begun at 0900.

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THE PRESIDENT: This is an oral application to have the present witness, TAKEBE, examined by the accused UMEZU with a view to calling him as a witness for that accused.

MR. TAVENNER: Sir William, I understand General Vasiliev was not informed of this meeting. I had thought he was and I didn't inform him.

MR. BLAKENEY: I informed him through his interpreter sitting at the table in the courtroom yesterday afternoon at recess.

(Whereupon, General Vasiliev entered the Chambers.)

THE PRESIDENT: Well, we are dealing with the application to have the witness TAKEBE made a witness for the defense if UMEZU sees fit to call him after getting a further statement from him.

I think you said yesterday, General, you had no objection to any such application being granted.

GENERAL VASILIEV: As I said yesterday, I have no objection on principle to the witness being a defense witness. The only problem that arises in this connection is that this witness must be sent to the U.S.S.R. as soon as possible and we respectfully point out we

would like to have the UMEZU phase -- to know the date.

THE PRESIDENT: Well, I would suggest that the interrogation by the defense take place at once and that the prosecution be shown a copy of what TAKEBE says in response to the defense's questions and then TAKEBE could be returned to the U.S.S.R. unless the prosecution desire to cross-examine him.

GENERAL VASILIEV: It is perfectly agreeable, sir.

THE PRESIDENT: Yes. Well, then, the U.S.S.R. authorities here will make the witness available for interrogation by the defense in the usual way.

GENERAL VASILIEV: Just in the same way as it was in the case of MATSUMURA.

THE PRESIDENT: Yes. We don't ask for anything different.

Well, there is no need for an order. The interrogation will take place as I have indicated with the concurrence of the U.S.S.R.

THE INTERPRETER: In case the defense would like to have other Soviet witnesses as their own witness, the General says he has no objection whatsoever and he would meet the wishes of the defense to the best possible way.

THE PRESIDENT: Well, there is no need of any

order. In fact, we cannot make an order on a government; we can only make a request.

(Whereupon, at 0910, the proceeding was concluded.)